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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 19**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

By law, UConn and the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) are authorized to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs. (Current law uses the term “academic degree” for BOR.) UConn has authority concerning its own programs and BOR has authority concerning programs for the Connecticut State University System, regional community-technical colleges, and Charter Oak State College.

This bill specifies that, when approving academic programs, (1) UConn must follow certain statutory requirements (the law already requires BOR to do so) and (2) both BOR and UConn must follow regulations promulgated by the Office of Higher Education. The statutory and regulatory requirements concern administration, finance, faculty, curricula, library, student admission and graduation, plant and equipment, records, catalogs, program announcements, and any other pertinent criteria.

The bill also (1) eliminates BOR’s authority to impose penalties on public institutions for violating program approval and licensure and accreditation requirements and (2) makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18      Nay 2      (03/04/2014)